

Worship Service on Sunday, September 18, 2022 at 10:15 AM

Welcome

Prelude “Morning Prayer” *Margrethe Hokenson*
“Allegro Maestoso” *Flor Peeters*

Greeting God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day What dates carry special significance for you?

***Hymn #375 UMH** “There Is a Balm in Gilead”

***Call to Worship**

God welcomes those whose hearts are sick.

God’s invitation comes to people whose joy is gone.

Why is the health of God’s people not restored?

Why must we weep day and night for those we have lost?

There is a balm in Gilead. There is a physician who heals.

We bring all our pain and unresolved anger.

We come in all our confusion to seek answers.

Bring all your urgent prayers and honest laments.

God is eager to offer salvation and open us to truth.

We cry out to God for deliverance from our sins.

We cry out for relief from our suffering.

***Prayer of Invocation**

God of life, you hear the cries of your people. By the power of your Holy Spirit, come to us now. Speak your truth to us we pray. Amen.

Psalm 4 #741 UMH *Sing the response where you see the red “R” in the responsive reading.*

Jeremiah 8:18—9:1 The Message

I drown in grief. I’m heartsick.

Oh, listen! Please listen! It’s the cry of my dear people reverberating through the country.

Is GOD no longer in Zion? Has the King gone away?

Can you tell me why they flaunt their plaything-gods, their silly, imported no-gods before me?

The crops are in, the summer is over, but for us nothing’s changed.

We’re still waiting to be rescued.

For my dear broken people, I’m heartbroken. I weep, seized by grief.

Are there no healing ointments in Gilead? Isn’t there a doctor in the house?

So why can’t something be done to heal and save my dear people?’

I wish my head were a well of water and my eyes fountains of tears

so I could weep day and night for casualties among my dear, dear people.

Response: The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!

Hymn #474 UMH “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Prayer of Intercession

Holy One, you are beyond our imagining, beyond our control, beyond our comfort. You will not be bound by our schemes. Your ways are not our ways. You are not a god of tidy

balance sheets or weekly appointments; your love is too deep, your claim too pervasive. You are there when tempers fray and anger erupts. You are there when anxiety overwhelms and we withdraw. You are *here* in every bruised heart, every calloused hand, every tangled dream. Move among us now.

Receive our broken spirits as the offerings we bring this day.

Merciful God, breathe deeply into us your reconciling love, your holy expectation.

Teach us to tend the world you love: to sow more than we reap; to heal more than we wound; to make room for others as you made room for us.

We pray with hearts both eager and reluctant, trusting that you will meet us – and call to us – just where we are, in the name of the Christ who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Answer to the Question of the Day What dates carry special significance for you?

Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

***Offering Prayer**

Gracious God, you feed us with your love and equip us to share in your purpose. Receive the offerings of our wounded spirits, our guarded purses, our meager strength, and continue to expand our hearts, until we live with the boldness and joy of Easter morning; for we pray in the name of your son, Jesus, and by the power of your Spirit. Amen.

***Song of Offering** #473 *UMH* "Lead Me, Lord"

Message "Why I Hate the End of September" Rev. Joyce Rich

***Blessing**

Sisters and brothers, however dark the night gets know that you are held by:
the Creator who made you and still claims you in covenant love;
the Redeemer who died for your sake, and who lives again;
the Sustainer of all creation who breathes courage into your heart.

Go and serve God boldly. Amen. **And Amen.**

***Hymn** #430 *UMH* "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

Announcements

Read For Next Week: Luke 16:19-31; I Timothy 6:6-19

Postlude "Abide with Us, Dear Jesus" *Max Reger*

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